MARVEL COMICS
DEATH BY TOMBSTONE PART 1
the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN
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DIRECT EDITION
HE'S BACK! AND HE'S MORE LETHAL THAN EVER!

BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, STUDENT PETER PARKER GAINED THE PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH AND AGILITY OF AN ARACHNID! ARMED WITH HIS WONDROUS WEB-SHOOTERS, THE RELUCTANT SUPER HERO STRUGGLES WITH SINISTER SUPER-VILLAINS, MAKING ENDS MEET, AND MAINTAINING SOME SEMBLANCE OF A NORMAL LIFE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!™

DEATH BY TOMBSTONE

PART 1: TAKEOVER!

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TOMBSTONE! LONG TIME NO SEE.
IF YOU WANT BACK ON THE PAYROLL, THE COST OF THAT DOOR'S COMING OUT OF YOUR SALARY.
NEW RAGS, HUH? NICE.
THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
WHAT'S THAT? CAN YOU SPEAK UP?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT-- YOU CAN'T. GOOD--'CAUSE I'M NOT INTERESTED. DON'T YOU COME IN HERE LIKE THAT!
BOYS? DO THE HONORS.
WE GOT RULES, TOMBSTONE, YOU KNOW THAT! SOMEONE THREATENS THE BOSS, WE GOT TO DO THEM.
SORRY.
BLAM! BLAM!
DON'T BE, SANDOZ, BLIND LOYALTY IS ONE OF YOUR BETTER QUALITIES.
AND I'M NOT THREATENING THE 'HEAD.
FOR OLD-TIMES SAKE, I'M EVEN GOING TO LET HIM LIVE.
YOU'RE GOING TO WHAT?!
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR PLACE-- PUNK!
SO REMIND ME, YOU WORTHLESS SACK OF LARD.
I'VE WISED UP. I WANT THE PENTHOUSE, 'HEAD. I WANT IT ALL.
I'M THE BOSS NOW.
WHY YOU LITTLE--!

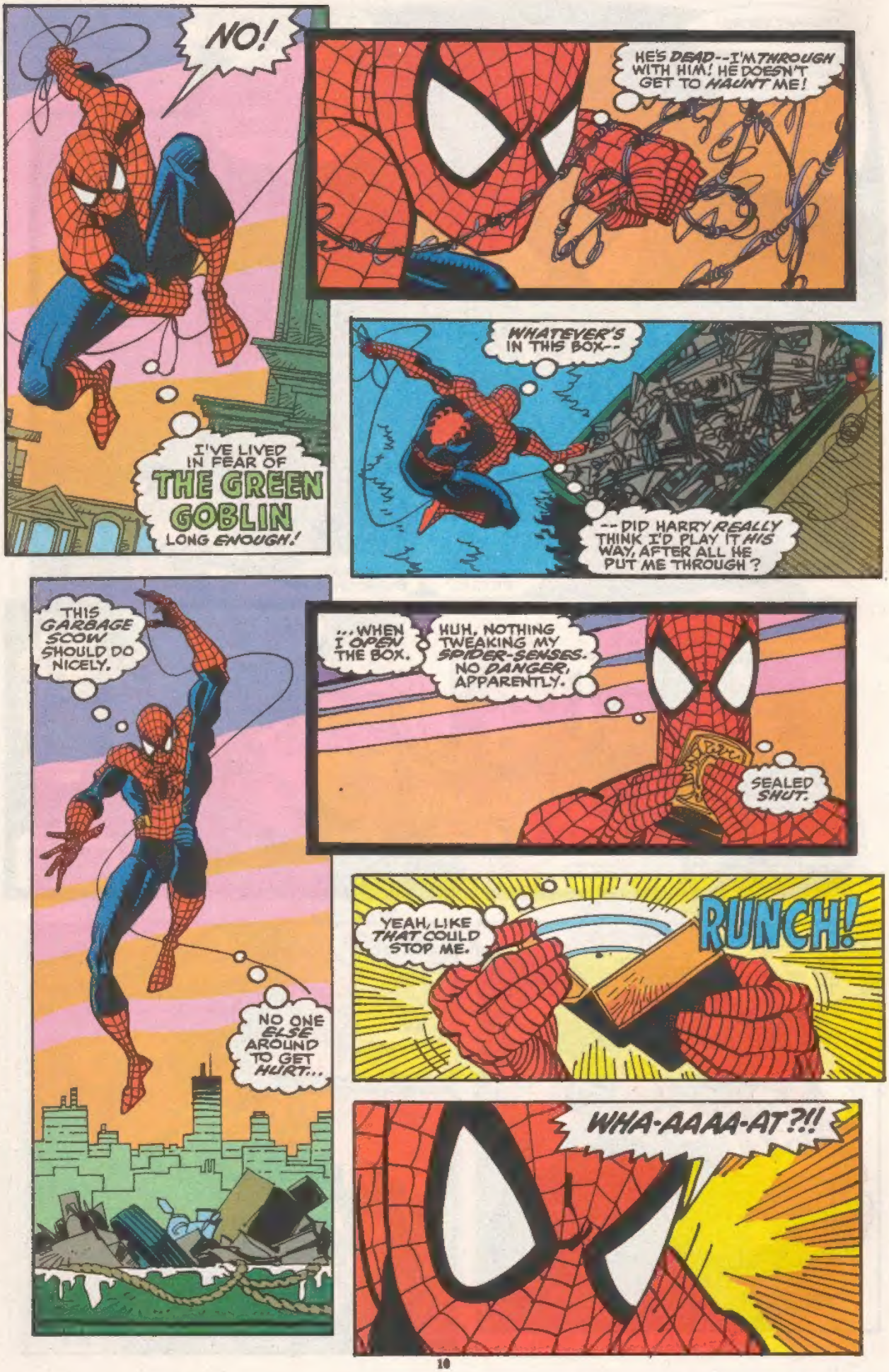
YOU'RE NOTHING, 'HEAD.
YOUR HEAD'S HARD-- BUT THE REST OF YOU--?
KRAK!
HEARD THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
L-LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN, TOUGH GUY...
TOUGH. RIGHT. TOUGH.
TOUGH WORLD, ISN'T IT?
AND YOU'RE JUST NOT TOUGH ENOUGH.
CHEAP SUITS. THIRTIES' MOVIES DIALOGUE.
WHA-?! WHAT ARE YOU--?! DON'T--!
SOMEONE'S GOING TO. WHY SHOULDN'T IT BE ME?
YOU'RE OUT OF DATE, 'HEAD--
SNAP!

--TIME TO RETIRE.
RETIRE. YEAH, YEAH. RETIRE.
WHAT'S THAT? SPEAK UP.
WHAT D'YOU KNOW? HE'S FAINTED.
BOYS?
GET HIM A DOCTOR, THEN PUT HIM ON A TRAIN.
I HEAR ARIZONA'S NICE.
NOT LIKE I HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST THE 'HEAD. I LEARNED A LOT FROM HIM.
BUT LIKE I SAID-- THINGS CHANGE.
AH, THIS IS GREAT. I'M A WHOLE NEW TOMBSTONE, MANHATTAN.
YOU AIN'T NEVER SEEN NOTHING LIKE ME.
AND WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR YOU DON'T LIKE IT--
--LEARN TO LOVE IT...

THANK YOU FOR COMING.
LIZ ALLEN OSBORN... NORMAN OSBORN... MARK RAXTON... PETER PARKER... MARY JANE PARKER... FLASH THOMPSON... FELICIA HARDY... IS THAT EVERYONE?
AH, GOOD.
WE'RE GATHERED HERE TODAY FOR THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF HAROLD OSBORN.
NORMALLY I'D READ THE WILL, BUT MR. OSBORN MADE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.
HE DOES STATE THAT HE THOUGHT VERY DEARLY OF ALL OF YOU--
--AND THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD CONCEIVE OF EVER SAYING GOODBYE--
--UNLESS HE SAID IT HIMSELF.
HARRY?
DADDY!
HELLO, LIZ... NORMIE...
... EVERYONE.
I GUESS I MUST BE DEAD.

I'M SORRY, LIZ--FOR EVERYTHING.
ALMOST EVERYTHING'S YOURS NOW--THE MONEY, THE BUSINESS--YOURS AND NORMIE'S. DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. DO WHAT YOU WANT WITH IT.
YOU BE GOOD TO MOMMY NOW, NORMAN. LISTEN TO HER. DON'T BE LIKE DADDY. DON'T EVER BE LIKE DADDY.
GROW UP STRONG AND HAPPY. LEAD A HAPPY LIFE. A GOOD LIFE.
I LOVED YOU BOTH--MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER KNOW--
--WHEW! DIDN'T MEAN TO SLOW THINGS DOWN!
FLASH, OLD PAL! THAT YOUTH PROGRAM YOU'VE BEEN WORKING ON? FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS HAS BEEN DONATED TO IT IN YOUR NAME.
GO BEAT 'EM UP, BIG GUY.
AND THAT BRINGS US TO PETER PARKER. MY BEST FRIEND, PETER PARKER.
COULD YOU EXCUSE ME JUST A MOMENT? I NEED TO SLIP INTO SOMETHING MORE COMFORTABLE.

THERE! WE'RE HAVING FUN NOW!
THIS IS MY MOTHER'S JEWELRY BOX, PETER. TAKE IT AS A MEMENTO OF OUR FRIENDSHIP. NOT MUCH, I KNOW--
--BUT IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS, RIGHT?
DON'T OPEN IT! IT'LL OPEN ALL BY ITSELF WHEN THE TIME COMES! THERE'S A BIG SURPRISE INSIDE!
REMEMBER ME--
KLIK
YOU CAN DO THAT FOR A DEAD MAN, CAN'T YOU, PETER?
GOODBYE, EVERYONE.
YOUR BOX, MR. PARKER?
LIZ?
I...I'M ALL RIGHT... I WASN'T EXPECTING...
LIZ, IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO--
WE'RE COVERED, FLASH. THANKS.
DON'T FORGET YOU HAVE FRIENDS, LIZ. PETER AND I WILL ALWAYS BE THERE TO HELP--
PETER?
YOU KNOW OUR BOY.
THERE HE GOES, OUT THE WINDOW AGAIN.
SHUT UP, FELICIA.


NO!
I'VE LIVED IN FEAR OF THE GREEN GOBLIN LONG ENOUGH!
HE'S DEAD--I'M THROUGH WITH HIM! HE DOESN'T GET TO HAUNT ME!
WHATEVER'S IN THIS BOX--
--DID HARRY REALLY THINK I'D PLAY IT HIS WAY, AFTER ALL HE PUT ME THROUGH?
THIS GARBAGE SCOW SHOULD DO NICELY.
NO ONE ELSE AROUND TO GET HURT...
...WHEN I OPEN THE BOX.
HUH. NOTHING TWEAKING MY SPIDER-SENSES. NO DANGER, APPARENTLY.
SEALED SHUT.
YEAH, LIKE THAT COULD STOP ME.
RUNCH!
WHA-AAAA-AT?!!

GOTCHA?
THAT'S IT?! A PIECE OF PAPER?!
GOTCHA!
GOTCHA?!
UNLESS...
NO!
IT'S TOO SICK--TOO TWISTED--EVEN FOR HARRY.
GOTCHA.
STOP PLAYING WITH ME!
I DON'T WANT YOUR TOYS!
I'M NOT PLAYING ANYMORE!
WHIP
HE'S GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME.
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D HURT HIS WIFE AND SON--NOT LIKE THIS.
BUT WHAT ELSE CAN IT MEAN?
HE'S ALIVE!
GOTCHA!
HARRY'S ALIVE!

COUNCIL REP TO SEE YOU, BOSS.
I'VE BEEN EXPECTING HIM, SANDOZ. THANK YOU.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'M SORRY? WHAT?
COULD YOU SPEAK UP?
NO, LISTEN HARDER.
WHAT'S THE WORD?
THE BOSSES HAVE--
YOUR NAME?
UH... CHESTERTON. WHY?
GO ON, MR. CHESTERTON.
THANK YOU.
THE COUNCIL IS FULL.
YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN REJECTED.
OH?
I DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR THAT.
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SAY IT.
NOW SUPPOSE WE START AGAIN.
WHAM!

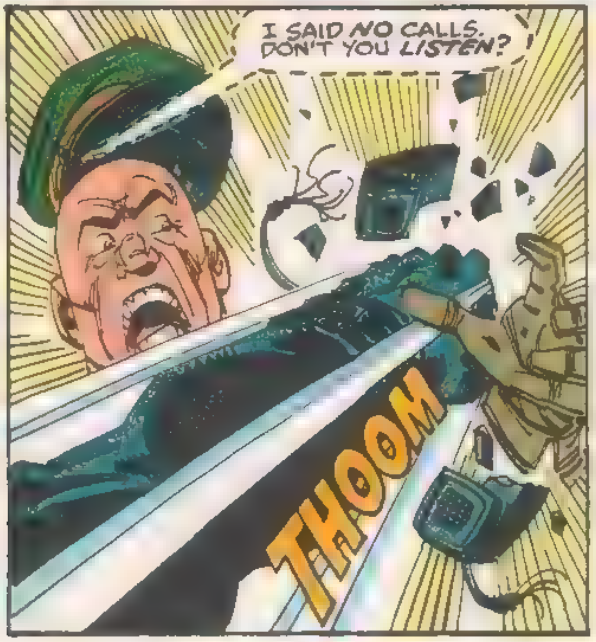
DON'T HURT ME ANYMORE! I DON'T MAKE THE DECISIONS!
THE COUNCIL PUT IT TO A VOTE! YOU WERE BLACKBALLED!
I WANT NAMES.
KASKA! IT WAS NICK KASKA!
THE OTHERS, THEY THOUGHT YOU'D BE GREAT FOR HAMMERHEAD'S SLOT!
KASKA.
SANDOZ!
DO THE HONORS.
AND MR. CHESTERTON--?
TELL THE COUNCIL TO WARM MY SEAT.
WE'RE NOT TAKING ON THE COUNCIL, ARE WE?
NO. THE COUNCIL OF BOSSES CONTROLS THE UNDERWORLD HERE NOW. I KNOW THAT.
THERE'S NO REAL POWER WITHOUT THE COUNCIL.
FIGHT THE COUNCIL?
I'M GOING TO RUN THE COUNCIL...

SHHH..
CLOSE YOUR EYES. YOU'VE GOT A LONG DAY COMING.
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN SLEEPING A LONG TIME AGO.
I KNOW YOU MISS YOUR DADDY, HONEY. I MISS HIM, TOO...
...BUT I THINK... LORD HELP ME, IT KILLS ME TO KNOW...
...WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM... HIS OBSESSION... HIS MADNESS.
WITH YOUR FATHER GONE, MAYBE WE HAVE A CHANCE FOR A NEW--
OHHHH!
MRS. OSBORN?
PLEASE-- I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU--
GET OUT! LEAVE US ALONE!
DON'T HURT MY SON!
WHOA! HOLD IT! I DON'T HURT PEOPLE!
I NEVER WANTED TROUBLE. HARRY CAME AFTER ME.
HE'S STILL COMING AFTER ME.
MRS. OSBORN, I THINK HARRY'S ALIVE!

YOU--!
YOU--!
I BURIED HIM!
MY HUSBAND DOES NOT COME SLINKING BACK FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!
LIZ!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?!
I HEARD YOU ALL THE WAY DOWNSTAIRS--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I... I...
THIS WOMAN'S IN MOURNING! GET OUT!
GO!
MARY JANE'S RIGHT. I'M ACTING CRAZY.
THWIP
AS CRAZY AS HARRY EVER WAS...
THANK YOU... THANK YOU!
HE BROKE IN HERE... HE SAID THE MOST TERRIBLE THINGS ABOUT HARRY.
MAKE IT ALL STOP!
I THOUGHT WE WERE FINALLY FREE, BUT IT WON'T STOP!
MARY JANE, I...
...I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...

"GOTCHA" IS RIGHT! HE GOT ME! HE GOT ME GOOD!
I SAW HIM BURIED, TOO! I READ THE CORONER'S REPORT! HARRY OSBORN CAN'T BE ALIVE!
ONE LAST STUPID, POINTLESS MINDGAME!
AND I PLAYED IT!
EVEN WHEN HE'S DEAD, I'VE GOT NO DEFENSE AGAINST HIM...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, BOSS...
CLUB KASKA
...WARS GET STARTED FOR LESS THAN THIS.
JUST DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD.
SOMETHIN' ELSE BUGGIN' YOU, SANDOZ?
YEAH, THESE SUITS. I DON'T LIKE THEM.
TOO CONSPICUOUS.
THAT'S THE POINT. WE WANT TO BE RECOGNIZED.
KASKA'S GOT TO KNOW WHO DID THIS.
KASKA AND THE COUNCIL.

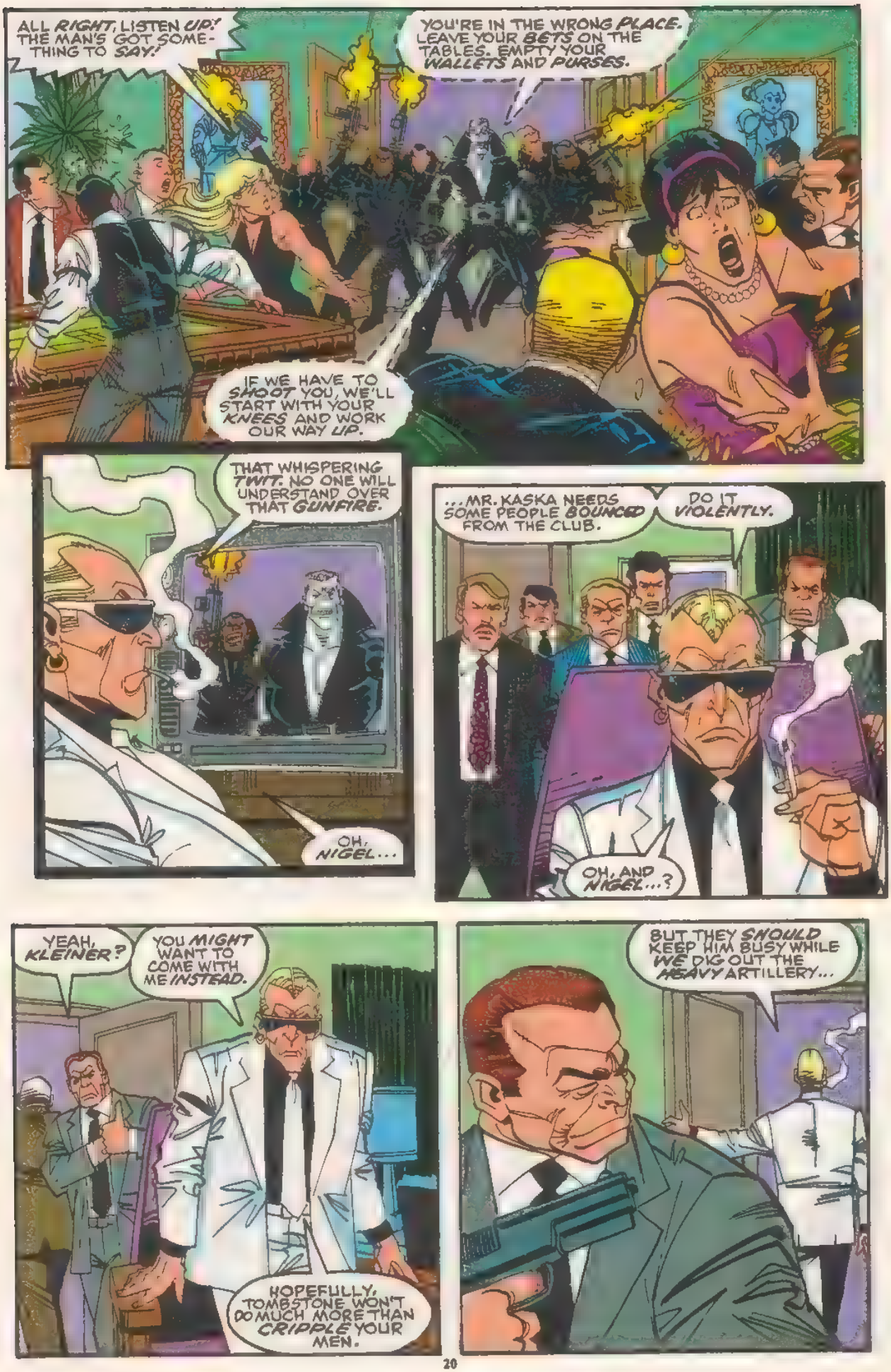
HEY! YOU! HANDS OFF THE PHONE!


I SAID NO CALLS. DON'T YOU LISTEN?
THOOM

NO WARNINGS.
WAMP!

MOVE-- BEFORE HE'S MISSED.

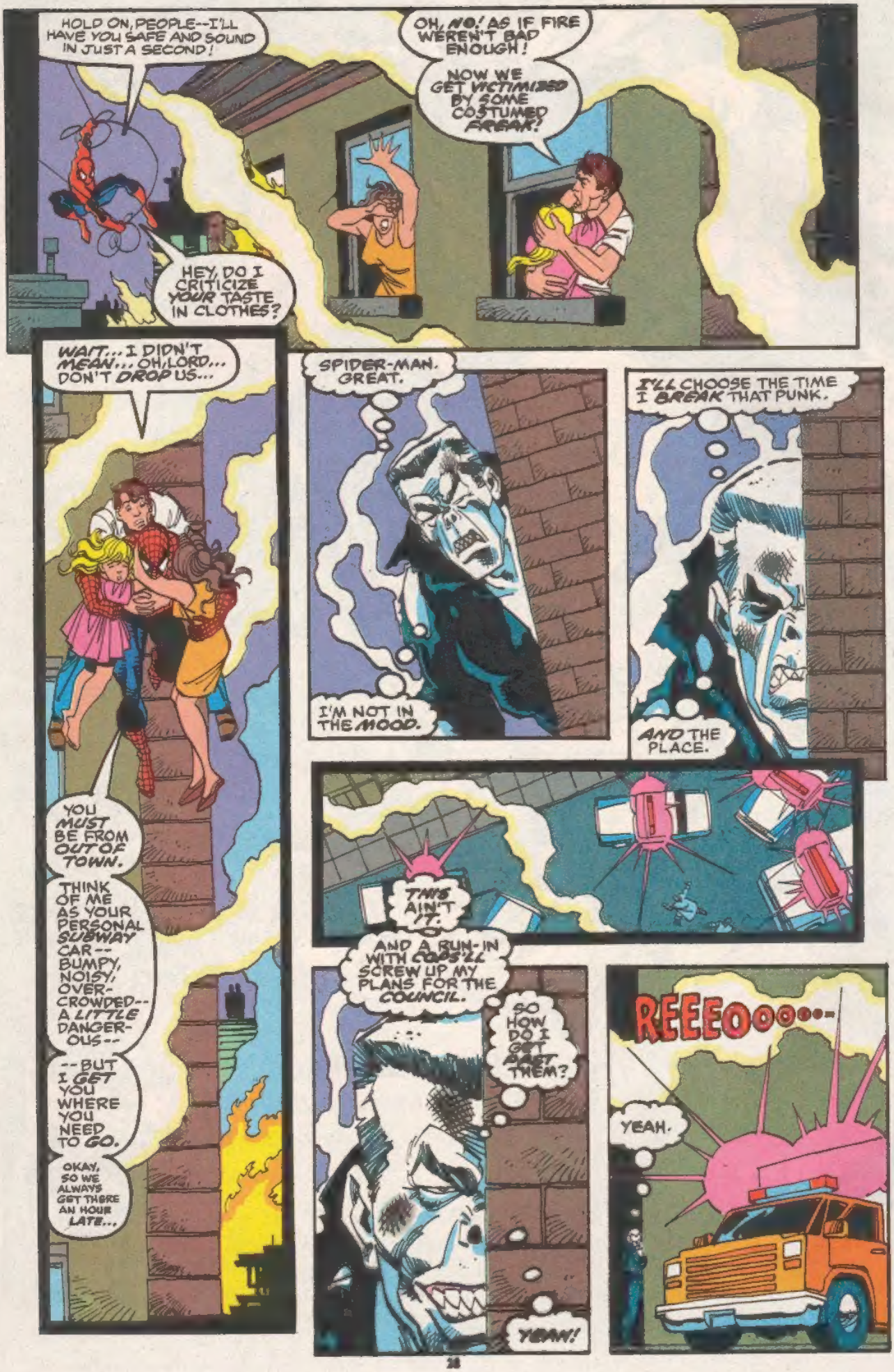
WE'RE THE SURPRISE TONIGHT.
WE DON'T WANT ANY OTHERS.


ALL RIGHT, LISTEN UP! THE MAN'S GOT SOMETHING TO SAY!
YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE. LEAVE YOUR BETS ON THE TABLES. EMPTY YOUR WALLETS AND PURSES.
IF WE HAVE TO SHOOT YOU, WE'LL START WITH YOUR KNEES AND WORK OUR WAY UP.
THAT WHISPERING TWIT. NO ONE WILL UNDERSTAND OVER THAT GUNFIRE.
OH, NIGEL...
...MR. KASKA NEEDS SOME PEOPLE BOUNCED FROM THE CLUB.
DO IT VIOLENTLY.
OH, AND NIGEL...?
YEAH, KLEINER?
YOU MIGHT WANT TO COME WITH ME INSTEAD.
HOPEFULLY, TOMBSTONE WON'T DO MUCH MORE THAN CRIPPLE YOUR MEN.
BUT THEY SHOULD KEEP HIM BUSY WHILE WE DIG OUT THE HEAVY ARTILLERY...

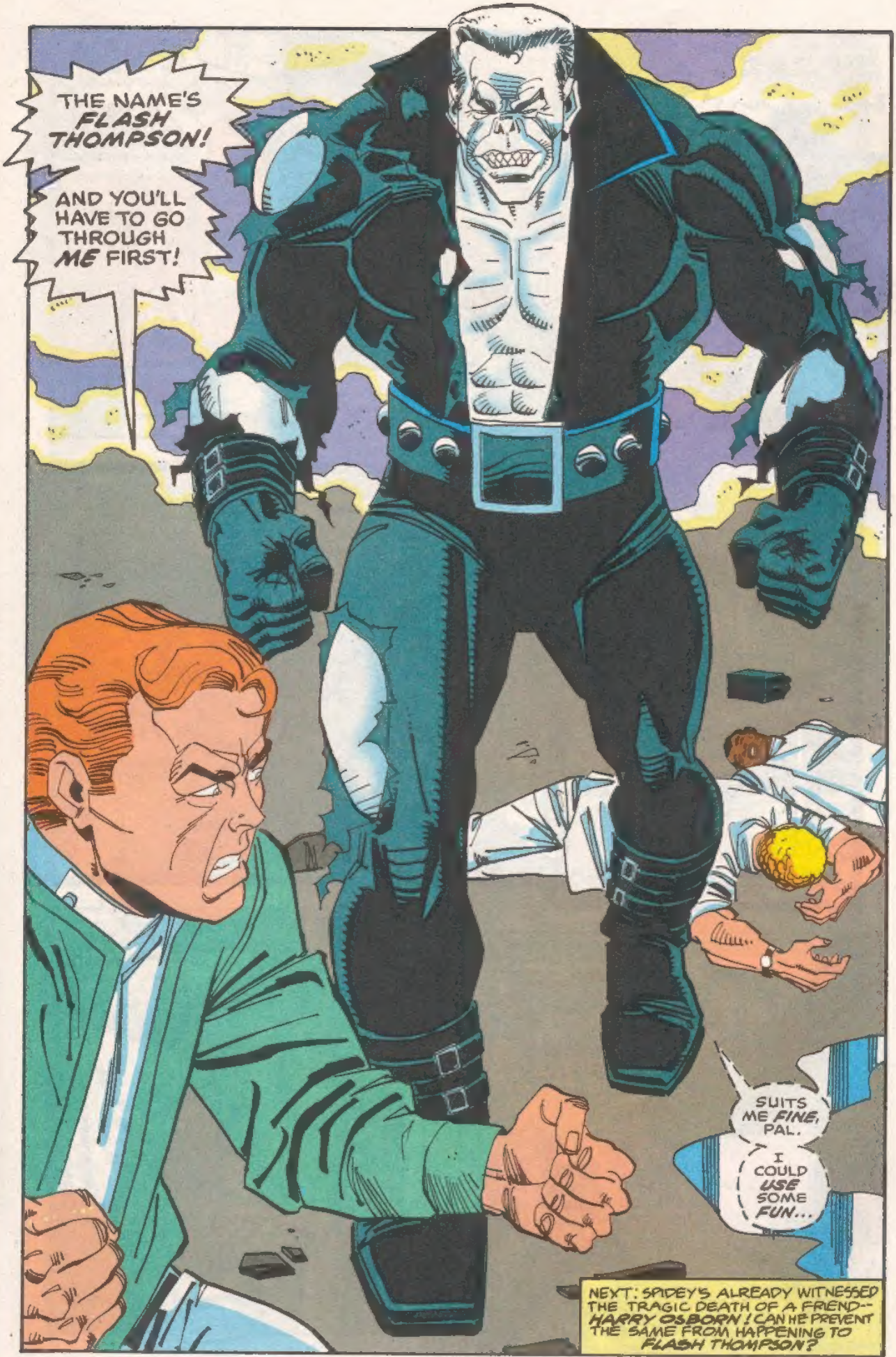
THINK YOU CAN ROB MR. KASKA'S PLACE?
HOPE YOU LIKE BODYBAGS!
BIG TALK.
I'LL SHIELD YOU-- TAKE THE MONEY AND RUN, BOYS. I'LL CATCH UP.
YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT ROBBERY?
YOUR BOSS IS IN MY WAY. AND WHAT'S IN MY WAY GETS OUT OF MY WAY--
--OR FALLS DOWN--HARD!
FANCY THAT.
YOU AND MR. KASKA SHARE A PHILOSOPHY.
BULLETS MAY BE USELESS AGAINST YOU, BUT WE CAN STILL BURY YOU!
BOOM!

WHAM!
FWOM!
WOM!
OUCH.
CAN'T KILL ME, KASKA... CAN'T STOP ME... I'LL CRUSH YOU AND EVERYONE WHO STANDS WITH YOU...
...I'LL TEAR THIS WHOLE PLACE DOWN--
OH, PLEASE.
HOW SAD YOU'RE NOT AS TOUGH AS YOUR TALK.
THE CLUB CAN TOLERATE A BIT MORE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE.
CAN THE SAME BE SAID FOR YOU?
LET'S SEE. LOOK WHAT I FOUND.
I HEAR WHEN GAS MAINS BLOW, THEY BLOW BIG.
YOU WOULDN'T!

SPIDER-SENSES GOING BALLISTIC! DANGER--BUT WHAT?!
I DON'T NEED THIS...
KA-
THOOM!
YIKES!
THAT WAS AN ENTIRE BUILDING!
I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IT WASN'T DIRECTED AT ME... FOR A CHANGE.
BUT PEOPLE LIVE IN THOSE APARTMENTS! PEOPLE WHO'LL NEED HELP!
NUTS TO THE GREEN GOBLIN! HE'S DEAD!
THIS IS WHAT SPIDER-MAN WAS BORN FOR!


HOLD ON, PEOPLE--I'LL HAVE YOU SAFE AND SOUND IN JUST A SECOND!
HEY, DO I CRITICIZE YOUR TASTE IN CLOTHES?
OH, NO! AS IF FIRE WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH!
NOW WE GET VICTIMIZED BY SOME COSTUMED FREAK!
WAIT... I DIDN'T MEAN... OH, LORD... DON'T DROP US...
YOU MUST BE FROM OUT OF TOWN.
THINK OF ME AS YOUR PERSONAL SUBWAY CAR-- BUMPY, NOISY, OVER-CROWDED-- A LITTLE DANGER-OUS--
--BUT I GET YOU WHERE YOU NEED TO GO.
OKAY, SO WE ALWAYS GET THERE AN HOUR LATE...
SPIDER-MAN. GREAT.
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.
I'LL CHOOSE THE TIME I BREAK THAT PUNK.
AND THE PLACE.
THIS AIN'T IT.
AND A RUN-IN WITH COPS'LL SCREW UP MY PLANS FOR THE COUNCIL.
SO HOW DO I GET PAST THEM?
YEAH!
REEEOOOOOO...
YEAH.

WHY DIDN'T THOMPSON GET US CLOSER?! WE'RE MILES FROM THE BUILDING!
HE'S A GOOD DRIVER, MAN. HE DID WHAT HE COULD.
STREET'S ALL CHEWED UP, COP CARS AND FIRETRUCKS EVERYWHERE--
TELL THAT TO THE PATIENTS. WHO KNOWS HOW MANY WE'LL BE CARRYING...
JUST ONE.
WHAT THE--
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE, PUNK.
I'VE HAD A ROUGH NIGHT.
I DON'T NEED MOUTH ON TOP OF IT.
LET THEM GO!
TRY TO TAKE THIS AMBULANCE AND--
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?
AND YOU'LL WHAT, MOUTH?


THE NAME'S FLASH THOMPSON!
AND YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME FIRST!
SUITS ME FINE, PAL.
I COULD USE SOME FUN...
NEXT: SPIDEY'S ALREADY WITNESSED THE TRAGIC DEATH OF A FRIEND-- HARRY OSBORN! CAN HE PREVENT THE SAME FROM HAPPENING TO FLASH THOMPSON?

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAIL

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

MARK POWERS
EDITOR
DANNY FINGEROTH
GROUP EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Howdy, partners! Before we get started, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Mark Powers, and starting this issue, I'll be taking over the editorial reins of this book as part of Danny Fingeroth's Spider-Man group. Some timing I have! Taking over one issue after J.M. DeMatteis concluded what thus far is *the* definitive run on SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN. However, I'm confident that Steven Grant will more than pick up the slack. He's best known for his work on the first PUNISHER Limited Series, and most recently completed a three-part arc in SPIDER-MAN. So keep reading, and please let us know what your opinion is—even if it's negative. In fact, *especially* if it's negative—we can't fix something if we don't know it's broken.
P.S.–Troy, get well soon, and take it easy!

Dear Spidey Crew,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #200 was a masterpiece! how do you guys keep doing it? There's no doubt in my mind that the people at Marvel love what they do, because it shows. Mr. DeMatteis has such a great feel for the characters. And I've been a Sal Buscema fan since the early '70s. Just a great effort by all! This book really moved me! You guys are the greatest, and before I forget...Make Mine Marvel!

Derrick Perkins
Irvington, NJ 07111

Glad you enjoyed (if that's the word) reading about the Goblin's demise as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you, Derrick. You weren't alone in your appreciation of the story. Read on...

SPECTACULAR Crew,

So many things to say, where to start? With the obvious–issue #200. To be honest, I felt like crying. I had to thumb back through my comics to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #136 to where Harry first became the Green Goblin---twenty years ago! Oh well, what goes around comes around. But if it had to be done, DeMatteis and Sal were definitely the team for it.

A quick note to all of Marvel's writers--don't bring the Green Goblin back! If anyone were to wear the Goblin costume other than an Osborn, then it would be a cheap rip-off! So until little Norman grows up, *please*, let one of the (if not *the*) greatest Spidey villains rest in peace.

To Mr. DeMatteis--why? Why do you continue to kill off the classic Spidey villains? Didn't you grow up reading those grand ol' AMAZINGs? If you did, I'm sure you wouldn't get this crazy urge to kill them off! Kraven, Green Goblin, and soon the Vulture--just 'cause they're old doesn't mean they aren't good and we don't want them around anymore! A good comic needs a good story and sure, the death of a major character is a good story. However, the mark of an excellent writer is one who doesn't take the "easy way out." Not that your stories in which you've killed off characters weren't complex; in fact, they were great! However, I think you see my point. To be honest, though, I wish Kraven and Harry Osborn were still alive.

Ending my letter on a positive note, thank you, thank you, thank you for bringing back one of my all-time favorite villains in issue #204–*Tombstone*! Finally! I knew you wouldn't fail me, and with Sal's art on him, it's a can't miss!

One final suggestion--could you bring back Corona? She's not a major character by any stretch of the imagination. However, issue #177 left us hanging about what happens to her.

Mr. DeFalco, no one has to tell you that you have an excellent team on this magazine. Just don't let the death of original Stan Lee creations become what it's known for...

Jeremy Yoder
LeMars, IA 51031

You raise an interesting point about the sanctity of classic Spidey foes, Jeremy. But "taking the easy way out" was the last thing on our minds. Our aim (and judging from the response, we succeeded) was to depict a natural progression in the complex relationship between Peter and Harry—including the tragic consequences for everyone involved.

As for "Death by Tombstone"...well, you've just read the first of three parts. Let us know what you think!

Dear SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN,

This letter comes all the way from Norfolk, England to congratulate all employees of Marvel Comics for producing some of the best comic books of the last fifty or more years. They are now becoming more available in my area as more comic shops appear. Enough congratulations, as I have some serious questions to ask:

1) In SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #200, has Harry Osborn, a.k.a. the Green Goblin, died?

2) Before Marvel UK's THE COMPLETE SPIDER-MAN became EXPLOITS OF SPIDER-MAN, we were told of plans to produce a cinema production of Spider-Man to be directed by James Cameron. Any news?

Shane Woodfolfe
Norfolk, England

Yes, Shane, Harry truly is dead. Dead, dead, *dead*!

As for the Spidey movie, we're as eager for more info as you are! As soon as we hear some solid news, we'll pass it on to you.

Dear SPECTACULAR people,

It's so hard for me to believe the Green Goblin is finally gone. One of the first comics I ever bought featured the death of the original Green Goblin back in AMAZING #122. I fell in love with the character immediately, and I bought all of his earlier appearances shortly thereafter. This time I was in from the beginning, and it was worth the wait!

Mr. DeMatteis, you have a wonderful, textured style of writing that brings out a realistic tone in the characters that I forgot was there. Before, I found life in the characters because of my youthful imagination; now, you have brought life back into the characters. The Goblin may be gone, but he won't be forgotten.

Before I go, I have two questions:

1) Any chance of bringing back the Spot? He's an old favorite of mine.

2) Bring back Tombstone. He's been missing from Spider-Man's life for too long.

Brook Vinstein
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Thanks for your considered praise, Brook. Unfortunately, we don't have any plans for the Spot right now. However, if you're interested in seeing more of Spidey's old sparring partners, check out the LETHAL FOES OF SPIDER-MAN Limited Series, which goes on sale this month.

And as for the guy with the voice like Jack Palance on a bad day...

NEXT ISSUE: TOMBSTONE KICKS EVERYONE'S BUTT, AND THE PARKERS GET BOOTED OUT OF THEIR APARTMENT!